

# Best Practices 2000

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
**SOUTHEAST/CARIBBEAN EDITION**

February 2000

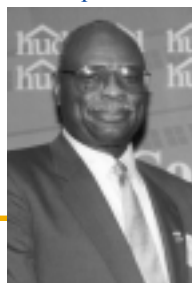
<http://www.hud.gov/bestpractices.html>

Issue No. 1

**W**elcome to the first issue of **Best Practices 2000 – “the Southeast/Caribbean way.”**

This is the first of our new monthly Best Practices Newsletters specifically catering to the Southeast/Caribbean area of the United States. Just as the nationally-focused Best Practices 2000 newsletter highlights the 1999 “Best of the Best” top 100 best practices from across the country, this newsletter will share with you information about the FY 1999 “Simply the Best” award winners from

the Southeast/Caribbean area. In each monthly issue you can look forward to reading about the exemplary professional practices of housing and community development practitioners across the geographical area. Last year, we had a total of 22 award recipients, so we have a lot of interesting details to share with you – from specific information on the techniques used to establish the programs or projects, to



news articles and even photographs. We’ve listed all the 1999 “Best of the Best” and “Simply the Best” award re-

cipients from the Southeast/Caribbean area in this issue. There’s also a photo gallery of the “Simply the Best” winners receiving their awards at the Departmental Best Practices and Technical Assistance Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri, this past July.

In sharing with you these examples of innovation and creativity, we hope to raise the standard for housing and community development by learning from and building upon the successes of our partners. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and look forward to sharing these wonderful models of community success with you.

**Davey Gibson, Secretary’s Representative  
Southeast/Caribbean**

## **Congratulations To You, Our 1999 “Best of the Best” and 1999 “Simply The Best” Award Winners “You Make Your Community Partners Proud”**

### **“Hats Off” To Our 1999 “Best of the Best” Award Winners**

1. Faith based Intervention Transforms Housing
2. Witness Support Program
3. Working to Improve Our Neighborhood Program
4. Rental Appraisal Committee
5. Fulton Bag & Cotton Mill
6. Affordable housing for Elderly & Disabled
7. Youth Orientation to college
8. Self Help Community Advantage
9. House Charlotte

10. Unifour Consortium
11. Multi-Tenant Industrial Building
12. Self-Sufficiency Life Skills Training
13. Tennessee Fair Housing Council
14. West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc.



**Southeast/Caribbean “Simply The Best” winners**

### **“Simply The Best” Winners**

1. Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity
2. State of Georgia 1998 Continuum of Care Plan
3. Closing Portfolio Reengineering Projects
4. Upstate Homeless Coalition of South Carolina
5. South Carolina Partners in Homeownership
6. Residential Construction Training
7. Family Self Sufficiency Gets Results
8. Welfare Reform Liaison Project

## *Simply the Best!*



**Closing Portfolio Reengineering Projects, Tina Wilson and Secretary's Representative Davey Gibson**



**South Carolina Partners in Homeownership, Marva Evans and Secretary's Representative Davey Gibson**



**Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity, Mustafa Azia and Secretary's Representative Davey Gibson**

### **Closing Portfolio Reengineering Projects**

The Closing Portfolio Reengineering Project is a collaboration between OGC, HUD Headquarters, other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses to close Portfolio Reengineering projects. As a result of their creative collaboration, 145 housing units have remained affordable and will be revitalized. This project saved HUD more than \$4.7 million in Section 8 subsidies.

Atlanta, GA

### **State of Georgia 1998 Continuum of Care Plan**

In 1998, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs submitted its first Continuum of Care Plan to HUD. This comprehensive Plan covers all of Georgia's non-entitlement communities and makes it possible for organizations in these communities to apply for HUD's competitive homeless funding. Under this process, HUD awarded \$3.9 million to seven organizations under the State of Georgia Continuum of Care Plan, demonstrating the merits of collaborative efforts.

Atlanta, Georgia

### **Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity's FHAP**

The Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity (GCEO) reached out to its partners in creative ways to promote and heighten its Fair Housing enforcement efforts. In 1998, the Fair Housing Division Manager and the assigned Technical Guidance Monitor developed a plan that resulted in shared enforcement efforts between HUD and FHAP agencies. The collaboration of these two entities lead to the establishment of the pre-charge review process, which permits FHAP agencies to submit data to HUD before issuing a charge, allowing HUD to decide whether or not the case should be pursued. If warranted, FHAP could waive its jurisdiction and consent to a reactivation of the case. In this way, HUD would be credited with the enforcement action which is then counted toward the Secretarial mandate to fight discrimination.

Atlanta, GA

### **South Carolina Partners in Homeownership**

The South Carolina Partners in Homeownership represents a partnership of more than 30 private- and public -sector organizations and agencies dedicated to expanding homeownership opportunity statewide through information and outreach. The Partners in Homeownership developed an Internet web site that includes information on housing and homeownership programs, data, and housing trends. This information is especially critical to rural and underserved communities in South Carolina.

Columbia, SC

### Upstate Homeless Coalition of South Carolina

The Upstate Homeless Coalition of South Carolina, through its Transitional Housing Program, successfully provides homeless and related social services over an eight-county area. The Upstate Homeless Coalition is a collaborative effort involving service providers, local governments, private businesses, and the faith-based community. Since the start of FY 1999, the Upstate Coalition served 365 clients throughout its eight-county service area and provided housing to 50 adults and 65 children.

Columbia, SC

### FSS Program Gets Results

Of the 100 participants enrolled in the Jackson Housing Authority Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency Program, 14 are enrolled in vocational training, nine attend college, five received their GED, 54 have escrow accounts, three obtained post-secondary degrees, and seven have vocational certificates. Of the 19 who thus far have completed the program, 14 received escrow money and seven have purchased homes. This track record is the result of an affirmative partnership with a broad range of public and private agencies, including the State's Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) program, and welfare agencies, vocational schools, adult learning centers, the Health Department, youth organizations, housing development agencies, and local lending institutions.

Jackson, TN

### Residential Construction Training Program

The Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency created the Residential Construction Training Program to alleviate the construction labor shortage in the area and to provide job training and opportunities for low-income persons, particularly residents of the Nashville Enterprise community. During the first 18 months of the Program, 14 new homes were framed by trainees. The next phase of the program will focus on rehabilitation of older units.

Nashville, TN

**Upstate Homeless Coalition of South Carolina, Michael Chesser and Secretary's Representative Davey Gibson**



**Family Self Sufficiency Program Get Results, Kathryn Avent Jackson and Secretary's Representative Davey Gibson**

## More of the Best!

**Welfare Reform Liaison Project, Rev. Odell Cleveland, Secretary's Representative Davey Gibson, and Nathan Cook**



Yes, I would like to be placed on the Building A Better Tomorrow, HUD's Best Practices and Technical Assistance Forum newsletter mailing list. (Please print) Send the form to the Newsletter Editor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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We are proud of your accomplishments in the Southeast/Caribbean area, and would like to share this information so that it can be replicated, making it possible to “Build A Better Tomorrow” for all.

Please help us do this by submitting articles for inclusion in your local newsletter using the following general guidelines:

1. Submit articles only on those “Simply The Best” winners listed on the 1st page of this newsletter.
2. Your submission should include:
  - Specific details on techniques used to establish the program/project (i.e., program mission, funding sources, marketing strategy, success rate, number of participants enrolled, pitfalls, number of full-time staff employed to carry out project, use of outside consultants/subcontractors, the need the activity will fill in the community) and any other information that may be used as a blueprint for replication.
  - Photographs of the facility or activity, local or national articles written on the project, and the program write-up submitted with your Best Practices nomination application. Please note: we are unable to return photographs, so please send copies. If you take photographs, please use black and white film (however, color photographs can be accepted).
  - A Best Practices Coordinator contact person, including telephone number and e-mail address.
  - All articles must be received no later than the first of each month, although, we welcome articles in advance. Articles must be submitted through your Secretary’s Representative or Senior Community Builder via their designated Best Practices Coordinator, or to the newsletter editor at the address listed below or via e-mail.

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